



# How Varonis Helps a Leading Law Firm Mitigate Risk While Transitioning to Microsoft 365

## CASE STUDY



“The firm is moving to Microsoft 365. It’s a whole different place because of the interconnectivity between different systems. Varonis will augment our visibility into the cloud—doing the same thing there that we’ve been doing internally. Having visibility of where the data’s going and what’s getting migrated is invaluable.”

### ABOUT THIS CASE STUDY:

Our client is a leading global law firm. We have happily accommodated their request to anonymize all names & places.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### CHALLENGES

- Enforcing least privilege to protect sensitive client data
- Complying with international regulations: CCPA, GDPR, and Australia's Privacy Act
- Moving to Microsoft 365 without sacrificing data security

### SOLUTION

#### Varonis Data Security Platform:

- **DatAdvantage** provides visibility into data access activity on file servers, OneDrive, and SharePoint
- **Data Classification Engine** finds and classifies sensitive data
- **DatAlert** monitors and alerts on critical systems

### RESULTS

- Best practice data governance policies automatically enforced
- Varonis reports help align teams to enforce least privilege and mitigate risk
- 360-degree visibility into on-prem and cloud environments provide peace of mind

# Challenges

## Regulatory compliance & protecting client data

One Varonis client (anonymous by request) enables its clients to expand into new markets. As an international law firm, it helps other companies understand local challenges, navigate regional complexity, and find commercial solutions.

But you don't grow to be a leading law firm without making data security a top priority. As the Head of Information Security explains:



“Client data—all client data—is deemed sensitive and has information barriers wrapped around it. It could be mergers and acquisitions. It could be banking and finance or real estate. We have strict controls on who can access information and how it's stored.”

Varonis enables the Head of Information Security to keep tabs on who is allowed to access and move sensitive data in the firm's environment. It helps them enforce least privilege across file servers and Active Directory.

Varonis also helps uphold data governance regulations. As an international organization, the firm is subject to everything from CCPA to GDPR to Australia's Privacy Act. Manually auditing for each requirement would be nearly impossible.



“We respond to client audit requests globally from all sorts of different verticals, including banking, government, and retail. We also have different jurisdictions, ranging from the United States to China, and all of those have their own sets of regulations as well.”

As the firm expands, its needs change and evolve—and the next transition involves migrating data to Microsoft 365.

The benefits are attractive: centralized collaboration and files accessible from anywhere. But information security needs to make sure that client security is maintained at every step.



“We’ve made commitments to clients to ensure that their data is safe.”



“My main focus during the lifetime of this big Microsoft 365 project will be ensuring that compliance controls are in place so we can assure clients that we’re doing the right things. Varonis is giving us the value and visibility we need.”

# Solution

## Defending company and client data on-premises

The Head of Information Security and their team rely on Varonis daily to keep on top of access changes and minimize overexposure. Their vigilance helps protect client information against insider threats and ransomware.

The Varonis solutions that help them stay proactive include:

1. **DatAdvantage** for Windows, SharePoint, Exchange Online, and Directory Services supports their on-premises data stores, Microsoft Active Directory, and email systems by showing where users have too much access and enabling the safe remediation of access control lists and security groups.



“If someone makes a change to the environment by adding themselves to a privileged group, we know about that immediately. Within less than a minute, we know it’s happened and we can lock them out if we need to. Speed and efficiency and having that information at your fingertips—that’s vitally important to me.”

2. **Data Classification Engine** for Windows and SharePoint. Varonis helps them discover sensitive and regulated content. With this insight, they can quickly and safely lock it down without interrupting business.



“If I took a piece of data and emailed it to someone or stored it on my machine, I lose the information barrier that I had if it was stored properly in the repository. Varonis gives us visibility into where data resides so we can report on it and take action to make sure everyone’s adhering to our information barriers.”

3. **DatAlert** creates a baseline of normal user behavior and alerts on suspicious activity. DatAlert warns the team when it detects potential risks, enabling them to quickly pivot in worst-case scenarios.



“You see the alerts, and it clarifies why you made the investment in the first place. You can analyze your risk objectively and know it’s money well spent. Even a team of 20 or 30 people wouldn’t give me the same level of assurance that I have with Varonis.”

## Applying that same level of protection to the cloud

In preparation for the Microsoft 365 migration, the information security team recently added DatAdvantage support for **OneDrive and SharePoint Online** to their security stack.

Now they have the same level of visibility and control in the cloud that they have on-premises, including knowing what’s sensitive and what’s happening to data at any given time.



“The firm is moving to Microsoft 365. It’s a whole different place because of the interconnectivity between different systems. Varonis will augment our visibility into the cloud—doing the same thing there that we’ve been doing internally. Having visibility of where the data’s going and what’s getting migrated is invaluable.”

Varonis' team helps support and enable the move by managing and mitigating risk during the migration.



“I know that I can pick up the phone and call Varonis any time. Their context and insights provide comfort for my team. Speed, efficiency, and visibility are all important—but the people-side is equally important. Having the expertise of Varonis and particularly their Incident Response team has been invaluable.”



“Within less than a minute, we know if a user is attempting to make changes to our environment and we can lock them out if we need to. Speed and efficiency and having that information at your fingertips—that’s vitally important to me.”

# Results

## Moving to Microsoft 365 with confidence

When it comes to data loss prevention, Varonis has given the firm the ability to implement and enforce policies that augment best practices across the entire organization.



“You can try to enforce policies by telling employees, ‘Don’t do this. Don’t do that,’ but you’re not actually getting to the source of the problem—which is the governance of data and identifying an incident’s underlying who, why, what, and when. That’s what Varonis does.”

This enables the firm to move forward with its Microsoft 365 migration with confidence. The knowledge that data in the cloud is just as secure as data stored on-premises delivers everyone tremendous peace of mind.

Now the Head of Information Security sends out Varonis reports to other teams on a regular basis—monthly or even weekly, depending on the report. This helps ensure that least privilege is enforced across the entire firm.



“Our infrastructure team looks after Active Directory, so we send them reports on alerts that occurred in that environment. This helps us enforce regulations and curb user behavior that might put client data at risk.”

Varonis enables the team to lock down sensitive company and client data with confidence. Time that used to be spent on manual remediation can now be focused on proactive data risk mitigation.



“Without Varonis, trying to enforce information barriers would be a manual effort—a never-ending manual effort, because the environment is always changing. We’re talking about millions of documents per week. We would need a team dedicated to looking for data—and that would cost the company a lot of money.”

To continue protecting its data and delivering best-in-class solutions for its clients, the firm is now considering adding [Varonis Edge](#) to its security stack.

As data exfiltration increases, gaining the ability to detect and stop DNS tunneling attacks becomes a necessity. Edge combines knowledge of Active Directory and file server activity with perimeter telemetry to prevent these attacks.



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# Mitigate risk while you move to the cloud.

Varonis helps you enjoy all of the benefits of a shared, collaborative environment while minimizing your attack surface.

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